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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8583
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8923
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2341
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4983
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1391
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1086
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2583
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - IRAQ - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Friday morning papers front-paged the car bombing on Thursday in Baghdad, which killed at least 145 people and injured more than 230.

1. "Review US Middle East Policy Thoroughly" The liberal Mainichi's editorial writer Fuse commented (11/24): "The bipartisan 'Iraq Study Group,' led by former Secretary of State James Baker, is reviewing the US Iraq policy. Although it is not known what proposal the group will come up with, the Bush administration should be prepared this time around to thoroughly review its Middle East policy. The world will become even more dangerous if the administration fails to resolve the Iraq stalemate and deal more effectively with other crises, including the North Korean nuclear program.... Finding it difficult to extricate itself from the 'Iraq quagmire,' the US cannot reduce anti-US feelings among Iraqis with only a partial revision of its Iraq policy. At a time when Syria and Iran, both anti-US nations, are showing moves to strengthen ties with Iraq, the US needs a sense of magnanimity and balance to unite countries in the region.... Cooperation among Middle East nations is indispensable to prevent Iran from strengthening ties with North Korea over nuclear development programs.... The US should review its Iraq policy in a humble manner, keeping in mind that the number of Iraqis who died in the Iraq war reportedly rose to the tens or even hundreds of thousands."

SCHIEFFER